



MARYLAND AND DELAWARE AGRI-FACTS

Published Monthly by the Maryland/Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service

AF-14-05

December 14, 2005

National Agricultural Statistics Service has a New Website

CONTENT

New NASS Website U.S. Milk Production
Maryland Turf Survey January Highlights
Agricultural Prices

USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) launched their newly redesigned web site in early December. The new site is located at www.nass.usda.gov. With a click of the mouse, there is now more agricultural data available at your fingertips. The entire NASS web site, including pages for Maryland and Delaware and the other 44 field offices, has been completely revamped to better serve the needs of NASS customers, whether farmers, researchers, government officials, journalists, teachers or others.

“NASS continues to strive to meet the needs of all of our data users. The new site will further our mission by providing a user-friendly and abundant resource of statistics in service to Maryland and Delaware agriculture,” said Norman Bennett, director of the NASS, Maryland Field Office.

“Anyone interested in Maryland, Delaware, or U.S. agriculture will find that the new site is not only informative and easy to use, but that it makes the most of the latest technology. Technological enhancements include a new Google-powered search engine, an SVG interactive mapping application, an RSS news feed and XML technology. To complete the redesign effort, the site also received a new look and feel to mirror the official USDA web site.

At the same time, the site continues to provide comprehensive statistical data on Maryland and Delaware agriculture. Features such as the Quick Stats Agricultural Statistics Database provide the most up-to-date state and county agricultural statistics. Data users can search for state and county level data by commodity and easily download information for use in a database or spreadsheet. Data users are encouraged to bookmark the site and visit it often, as it will be frequently updated with new information. USDA reports, such as the monthly *Crop Production* publication, will continue to be available online just minutes after release.

ANNOUNCING THE 2006 MARYLAND TURF SURVEY

In January 2006, Maryland Agricultural Statistics will be mailing out questionnaires to sod producers, lawn service companies, and consumers of sod services and products. This attempt at measuring the importance of the Maryland turf industry will mark the first such effort since 1996. The Maryland Turfgrass Council, as in previous surveys, is sponsoring this extensive undertaking.

Results are expected by January 2007 which will include the following key statistics by industry sector: acres of turf maintained, new turf acres established in 2005, number of workers involved in the industry, value and expenditures on turf-related equipment, expenditures on turf maintenance inputs, and the costs of contracted services related to turf.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Commodity ¹	Unit	United States			Parity
		November 2004	October 2005	November 2005	
Dollars					
Wheat, Winter	BU	3.39	3.33	3.25	10.60
Corn	BU	2.05	1.82	1.79	7.10
Barley	BU	2.45	2.41	2.49	7.20
Soybeans	BU	5.36	5.67	5.68	17.20
All Hay, Baled	TON	88.70	97.70	91.70	----
Apples, Fresh	LB	0.245	0.286	0.282	0.557
All Beef Cattle	CWT	85.40	91.10	91.60	184.00
Calves	CWT	123.00	134.00	132.00	250.00
Hogs	CWT	55.60	47.00	44.70	114.00
Broilers	LB	0.390	0.430	0.420	----
Turkeys, Live	LB	0.487	0.529	0.549	1.080
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.437	0.314	0.482	1.79

1/ Agricultural Prices are published at the end of each month throughout the year for the United States and selected states. Maryland is not in the monthly prices program; however, price information is available for Maryland commodities at the end of each production year. Throughout the year on Friday, the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture publishes the Maryland Grain and Livestock report. This report contains current commodity price quotes from local and regional markets throughout Maryland and can be viewed at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/md/risetoc.htm#Grain>

U.S. MILK PRODUCTION

Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, United States, 2004-2005 1/

	:	Milk Cows 2/		:	Milk Per Cow 3/		:	Milk Production 3/	
	:	-----		:	-----		:	-----	
Quarter	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	Change
	:	2004	2005	:	2004	2005	:	2004	2005
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	From
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	2004

	:	1,000 Head			---- Pounds ----			Million Pounds	
	:							Percent	
	:								
Jan-Mar	:	8,993	8,996		4,755	4,807		42,759	43,242
Apr-Jun	:	9,001	9,034		4,869	5,054		43,824	45,660
Jul-Sep	:	9,027	9,054		4,679	4,859		42,239	43,997
Oct-Dec	:	9,019			4,655			41,983	
	:								
Annual	:	9,010			18,957			170,805	

1/ May not add due to rounding.
2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

JANUARY RELEASE HIGHLIGHTS

Broiler Hatchery	January 4, 11, 18, 25
Annual Crop Production	January 12
Weather Crop Summary	January 3, 10, 18, 24, 31
Dairy Product Prices	January 6, 13, 20, 27
Chicken and Eggs	January 23
Cattle.....	January 27
Sheep and Goats	January 27
Annual Vegetables.....	January 27
Agricultural Prices	January 31

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT NORMAN BENNETT, MARYLAND DIRECTOR AT
(410) 841-5740 OR CHRIS CADWALLADER, DELAWARE DIRECTOR AT (302) 698-4537
E – Mail: nass-md@nass.usda.gov